

The Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20505


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National Intelligence Council

Dennis L. Bark
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Dear Dennis

Thank you for sending me your presentation to the Senate Subcommittee on Education, Arts and Humanities. But, most important, congratulations on being selected to serve on the board of directors of the United States Institute for Peace. This is a well deserved honor in which I rejoice not only as a friend, but also as one who knows you will do much to give the Institute a proper sense of direction.


George Kolt
National Intelligence Officer
for
Europe

Testimony of

Dennis L. Bark
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Presented to the
Senate Subcommittee

on

Education, Arts and Humanities

United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

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Mr. Chairman:

Members of the Committee:

It is a privilege to be nominated to serve as a director of the United States Institute of Peace. It represents the opportunity to serve our country in an area of vital national interest -- an area which is the focus of attention by people concerned with maintaining peace throughout the world.

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For the past fifteen years I have been associated with the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution, and Peace at Stanford University. It is an institution founded by the thirty-first President of the United States. In his dedication of the Hoover tower building in 1941, several months before the attack on Pearl Harbor, Mr. Hoover spoke about the library and archival resources of the Institution as follows: "...here are the documents which record the suffering, the self-denial, the devotion, the heroic deeds of men. Surely from these records there can be help to mankind in its confusions and perplexities, and its yearnings for peace.

The purpose of this institution is to promote peace."

Today, more than four decades have passed since Mr. Hoover spoke the latter words, and the successful promotion of peace remains a matter of critical and uncontestable importance. During the past decade and one half that I have been part of the Hoover Institution, I have had the good fortune to meet men and women from every continent in the world and to discuss with them our concern with peace in a stable world, and the exchange of ideas concerning the various paths one may take in order to achieve this goal. From these discussions one thing emerges clearly, again and again, and that is that all people in the world have in common the yearning for peace of which Mr. Hoover spoke almost half a century ago -- echoing the concerns of men and women from all walks of life who preceded and followed him.

It is for this reason that I would consider it both a responsibility and an honor to serve on the Board of Directors of the United States Institute of Peace; for I endorse the abiding concern for preserving a peaceful world that lies at the heart of the legislation creating the

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Institute. The opportunities for the Institute to contribute to the promotion of peace will be many and varied. With imaginative leadership and balanced direction the Institute can encourage the exploration of all paths that may lead to peace. It can stimulate the interest of our nation's citizens in the continuing process of peace. And it can help to challenge the spirit and creative powers of the minds of the men and women of the United States to develop constructive alternatives to conflict and strife.

In the "United States Institute of Peace Act" of October 19, 1984 the language used to describe the Institute's purpose is very close in meaning to the words with which Herbert Hoover dedicated the Hoover tower building in 1941. They are important words which need to be kept in the forefront of our minds, and therefore I want to recall them here. The purpose of the Institute is "...to serve the people and the Government through the widest possible range of education and training, basic and applied research opportunities, and peace information services on the means to promote international peace and the resolution of conflicts among the nations and peoples of the world without recourse to violence."

I share the earnest conviction as well as the hopes which these latter words set forth and underscore. The Institute's work can and must represent an "investment" in our nation's future as a free and peaceful country, as we endeavor to contribute as a nation to the preservation and to the future of a free and peaceful world. This effort is of fundamental importance, and is necessary to human existence. I would, therefore, welcome the opportunity to participate in this effort as a director of the United States Institute of Peace.